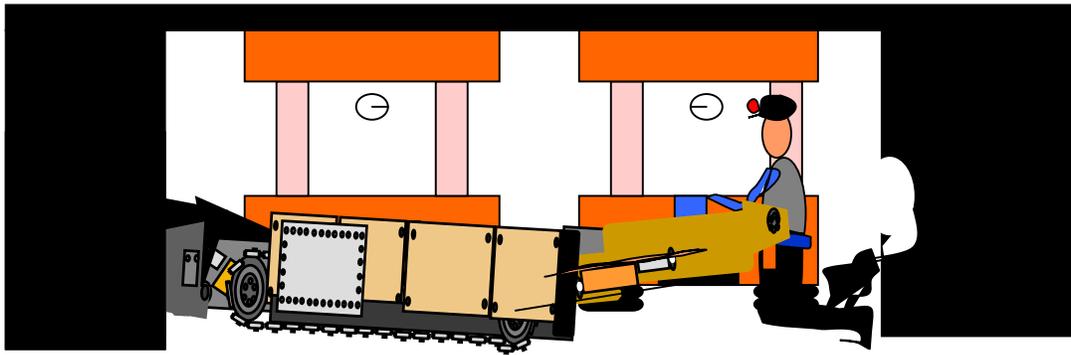




## SAFETY ALERT BULLETIN

### FALL OF RIB



On August 17, 2004, at approximately 9:05 p.m., a roof drill operator who was pulling cable for the continuous miner on a pillar recovery section, received a serious injury. A piece of rock weighing about 30 pounds dislodged from the right rib striking the victim on the lower left leg causing both bones in the lower leg to be broken. He was transported to Bristol Memorial Hospital where he underwent surgery for the fractures.

- All workers should conduct thorough roof and coal rib examinations in their work areas before starting work and frequently thereafter as necessary to ensure safety.
- Take down or support loose rib or roof material.
- Remember that falling ribs can pitch out several feet into an entry.
- Travel should be limited between equipment and coal ribs in high coal seams.
- Coal ribs are the most fragile and naturally weak at corners.

**ACCIDENT REDUCTION PROGRAM**